

Public Health Services at the Local Level¹

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Needs Assessment and Planning: Local public health departments collect, manage and analyze health related data to monitor the health status and needs of the population. Priorities are determined, often with community participation, and existing resources and funding sources identified. Programs are evaluated for their effectiveness and resources are directed as appropriate.

Food Services: Section 19-13-B42s of the Connecticut State Public Health Code requires inspection of food establishments once every three months by the director of public health or a certified agent. Reinspections may be done more often to achieve proper compliance with Public Health Code. In addition to restaurants, inspections are also done on cafes, bakeries, cafeterias, food vendors at fairs and carnivals, itinerant food vendors shellfish vendors, grocery stores, food facilities in rest and convalescent homes, clubs, bake sales and dinners by local church, fraternal, and other nonprofit organizations.

Day Care Centers: All new day care centers are inspected by local departments of health. Day care centers are also reinspected every two years for relicensing and when there are changes such as expansion and renovations. Food services provided in day care centers are inspected four times a year.

Investigation of Food-borne Outbreaks: Outbreaks of food-borne illnesses are investigated by local departments of public health. The main concern is to stop the outbreak, take samples and specimens to find the source of the problem, and eliminate reoccurrence of such problems.

On-site Sewage Deposal: Local public health departments are responsible for the issuance of permits for on-site sewage disposal facilities. Location and method of installation are governed by the Public Health Code and are enforced by local public health departments.

Well Water Supplies: Local public health departments are responsible for well water testing with the assistance of the State Laboratory when pollution is suspected, and approval of applications for drilling new wells.

Housing: Local public health departments are responsible for following up on compliance involving rented dwellings or multi-family dwellings where there is a potential public nuisance, possible health hazard, or the like. Areas of concern include: heat loss, unsanitary conditions, sewage disposal, water supply, drainage, vermin, lighting, ventilation, etc.

Communicable Diseases: Local public health departments are responsible for the follow-up of communicable diseases, including: tuberculosis, enteric diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis, and other reportable diseases as required by the Connecticut State Public Health Code.

¹ Excerpted from "Essential Local Public Health Services for Connecticut Communities" produced by Connecticut State Department of Public Health.

Environmental Protection: Local public health departments respond to cases of environmental contamination or spills including: oil spills, cases of suspected toxic dumping or contamination, radiological emergency, water pollution, and the like. Health Districts work in cooperation with towns and the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection to undertake source investigation and abatement.

Immunization: Local public health departments are responsible for encouraging immunization against childhood diseases such as polio, mumps, measles, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis which are required by Connecticut State law for entrance into public schools and private schools. Local public health departments distribute free vaccine to local clinics and to private physicians who agree to abide by Connecticut State guidelines in regard to charges for administration.

Recreational Areas: Local public health departments inspect recreational areas during their seasonal use on a routine basis, taking water samples and testing for bacterial quality at pools and lakes used by the public for swimming and bathing. Toilets, bathhouses, and other supportive facilities are also inspected.

Health Education: Local public health departments are responsible for promoting good health in the population through health education programs. These programs are designed to encourage modification of lifestyles, the reduction of risk for certain diseases, and the encouragement of proper nutrition. Health education programs are carried out in school systems, in community settings, immunization clinics, speaking engagements, the media, and brochures.

Schools: Local public health departments are responsible by statute for inspecting school facilities for safety and health. Those inspections include water and sewage systems, shower, locker and toilet facilities, swimming pools, chemistry and biology labs, automotive, woodworking, and other shops, home economics rooms and the like. In addition, ventilation, heating systems, and general safety within the facilities are reviewed. These inspections of school facilities take place once a year.

**Public Health Comparison
Part/Time Department and Health District**

Health Services - Financial Issues		Existing P/T Department	P/T Department with Increased Staffing - Phase I	Darien/New Canaan Health District
Annual State Aid	Financial State Aid that is set annually by the State Legislature.	\$49 per capita (\$10,068 per year)	\$49 per capita (\$10,068 per year)	\$1.66 per capita (\$67,250 per year)
Eligibility for Grants	Grants are primarily from the Federal Government and are distributed by the State. During the fiscal year 2006/07, if a health district had in been in place grants for \$50,000 for bio-terrorism and \$18,000 for avian flu planning would have been received.	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Eligible to apply (anticipate \$50,00 to 100,00 per year)
Cost for Services per Capita	Net Budget (after deduction of revenues) for each model divided by population. - 20,547 for Darien and 40,512 for Darien and New Canaan combined	\$6.24 per capita	\$10.81 per capita	\$7.82 per capita
Health Services - Core Functions		Existing P/T Department	P/T Department with Increased Staffing - Phase I	Darien/New Canaan Health District
Emergency Planning	Participate and lead planning efforts to prepare the community for all manmade and natural emergencies such as bio-terrorism, avian flu, and smallpox outbreaks.	Existing Level of Service	Projected Level of Service	Projected Level of Service
Food Service	Depending upon the particular restaurant, inspections are required to be performed from every three months to annually. Darien has 108 restaurants and another 33 temporary food events during the course of the year	Partially Able to Perform	Partially Able to Perform (requires Phase II funding)	Able to Perform
Day Care Centers	New centers are inspected prior to opening and are re-inspected annually	In Compliance	In Compliance	In Compliance
Investigation of Food borne illnesses	Any outbreaks for food-borne illnesses are investigated by the Health Department	In Compliance	In Compliance	In Compliance
On-Site Sewage Disposal	Issuance of permits for on-site disposal facilities including location, testing and installation	In Compliance	In Compliance	In Compliance
Well Water Supplies	Testing of well water and approval of drilling for new wells	In Compliance	In Compliance	In Compliance
Housing	Compliance of Rental or multifamily dwellings with heat loss, sanitary conditions, vermin, water & sewer, etc.	Partially Able to Perform	In Compliance but does require Phase II funding	In Compliance
Communicable Diseases	Follow-up of communicable disease such as tuberculosis, enteric disease, sexually transmitted & other reportable diseases	In Compliance	In Compliance	In Compliance
Environmental Protection	Respond to spills, toxic dumping, or other contaminations	In Compliance	In Compliance	In Compliance
Immunization	Encouraging immunization against childhood diseases and holding clinics to serve the needs seniors and those at risk	In Compliance	In Compliance but does require Phase II funding	In Compliance
Recreational Areas	Inspect recreation areas during seasonal use i.e. pools and beaches	Partially Able to Perform	In Compliance	In Compliance
Health Education	Promote good health including lifestyle changes, proper nutrition, and reduction of risk for certain diseases	Partially Able to Perform	In Compliance but does require Phase II funding	In Compliance
Schools	Inspect school facilities including food service, locker and toilet facilities, labs, and shop rooms	Partially Able to Perform	In Compliance but does require Phase II funding	In Compliance
Salons and Barbershops	Conduct annual inspections of such facilities to assure compliance with sanitary-code	In Compliance	In Compliance	In Compliance